

Pam
6574

DO YOU
*Want to Be
Saved?*



"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."—Isaiah 1: 18.

By Robbie Trent, Children's
Editor The Sunday School Board
of the Southern Baptist Con-
vention. Published by The Sunday
School Board of the Southern Bap-
tist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.



Tommy's Experience

A SOLDIER BOY in the World War had been troubled because of his sins. He had tried to find peace, but somehow he had not found it.

"Tommy," said the chaplain, "did you ever hear how Jack got to be a soldier?"

"No, sir," said Tommy, "how was it?"

"Jack was only eighteen," explained the chaplain. "He applied for admission in the army. He was refused.

"'You are two inches short,' the officer told him. 'And you have that crippled foot.'

"Jack was heart-broken. He could never be a soldier, he thought. He told me about it one day.

"'I'll tell you what you can do,' I said. 'I have a friend who is a doctor. He trains young athletes. Put yourself in his hands. He'll make a soldier out of you, I promise.'

"Jack went to the doctor and talked things over.

"'If you'll quit depending on that brace, and put yourself in my hands, I'll make a soldier of you,' the doctor promised.

"Jack did that very thing. He took off his brace and forgot about it. He put himself in the doctor's hands. He did as the doctor said. He depended on him. The doctor fixed his bad foot. He gave him some special treatments. And he made good his promise. He made a soldier out of Jack."

"God makes you a promise just as that doctor did. He says, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.' That means put yourself in Jesus' hands."

Tommy drew a long breath. "Why, sir," he said, "is it as simple as that? I can trust him to save me right now."

Tommy did just that. He put himself into the hands of Jesus. He depended on Jesus to save him. And he found the peace that passeth understanding—the peace of heart that Jesus Christ gives to all who really trust him.

How About You?

Do you need to be saved? "I haven't done anything very bad," you say. "I haven't committed a crime." That may be true, but you need to be saved just the same. Have you ever done anything even a little bit wrong? Have you ever said anything that was not exactly true? Have you ever had a wrong thought? "Of course," you say. "Every boy and girl, every man and woman, does that sometimes." And you are right. You are saying the very thing the Bible says in Romans 3: 23, "All have sinned." That "all" includes you. It means that you are a sinner, that you are not on good terms with God, that you are lost, that you need to be saved.

Would you, too, like to act on God's promise and find his peace that nothing on earth can ever give? It is not hard. Let us think about it awhile, and see what one has to do. Becoming a Christian is not a matter of age, nor of family connection, nor even of race. *Every person* must be truly sorry for his sins and make up his mind to do the things that please God. He must believe in his heart that God,

for Jesus' sake, forgives his sins and is ready to help him live as Jesus' followers should live.

The person who repents of his sins and trusts Jesus to save him is to be "saved" or "converted." That word "converted" is an interesting word. It comes from two Latin words, *cum* and *verto*. *Verto* means "to turn around" and *cum* means "with." It describes just what happens to everyone who repents and believes. He "turns around with Jesus" to try to do better. That is why we use it as a name for what takes place when a person turns against sin and trusts Jesus to save him. Sometimes we call it "becoming a Christian."

Jesus made it very clear that one does not become a Christian when he reaches a certain age, nor because his father and mother are Christians. He made it clear that one does not become a Christian because he goes to Sunday school and church, nor because he tries to be honest and truthful. He made it clear that one does not become a Christian even by joining the church, nor by being baptized. He becomes a Christian only by being converted, by *repenting* of his sins and *believing* on Jesus as *his* Saviour from sin.

Here are three verses that tell you how to become a Christian:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3: 16).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3: 36).

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16: 31).

When you really see how good Jesus is and how much he loves you; when you remember that he died for *you*, you will be sorry that you are not good, as he wants you to be. When you are sorry enough to turn against your sins, that is *repenting*.

When you depend on Jesus to forgive *you* and save *you*, that is *believing*. And when you really repent and believe, Jesus saves you right then. For you have put yourself in his hands. And he always makes good his promise.

Do you want to be saved?

Will you "turn around *with* Jesus"?

Will you pray,

"Into my heart,
Into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus"?